

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 765

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to request the State Capitol Commission to obtain and initiate the placement of a bust in the State Capitol to honor the memory of Lt. Governor John S. Wilder.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of John Shelton Wilder, Sr., of Somerville, whose lifetime of distinguished public service improved the quality of life for every Tennessean. In his passing, Tennessee has lost one of her finest statesmen, and a gentleman of courage and high character who was dedicated to his State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, a native son of Tennessee, born and raised in Fayette County, John S. Wilder was successful in his every endeavor: in business as a merchant and banker, in the legal profession as a prominent attorney, in the field of agriculture as a dedicated farm owner and cotton gin operator, as a pilot with advanced ratings, and as a public servant with a towering record of accomplishment that will never be equaled; and

WHEREAS, offering himself for public service in Nashville, John S. Wilder won election to the legislature in November 1958, when the good people of Senate District 26 evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of the young man from Longtown by electing him as their State Senator; and

WHEREAS, serving forty-four years overall in the Senate, John S. Wilder provided stalwart and innovative leadership as Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate for eighteen consecutive terms and thirty-six years and set the record for the longest continuous service by the elected presiding officer of any legislative body in the free world; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that John Shelton Wilder's many years of service to the Tennessee General Assembly and the good people of Tennessee be appropriately honored and commemorated; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the State Capitol Commission is hereby requested to obtain and initiate the placement of a bust of the late Lt. Governor John S. Wilder in the State Capitol to honor and commemorate his many years of service to the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the bust shall be funded by private donations and placed and displayed on the second floor of the State Capitol, either inside or adjacent to the Senate Chamber as is appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Capitol Commission is authorized to seek private donations to cover the cost of the bust and related expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the State Capitol Commission.